As per the procedure in vogue, stores initially received in the Depots are inspected, accounted for and subsequently stored in sheds. This being an ongoing process, a percentage of serviceable inventory, therefore will be lying in the open at any given time for a prescribed and limited period.

Instructions have been issued to all concerned to ensure storage of serviceable inventory in covered accommodation.

To streamline the functioning of Ordnance Depots, it has been decided to modernise all the seven Central Depots in phases.

Vanishing of gun spares from Jabalpur

†2714. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spare parts of guns have vanished from armament store situated in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to find out the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Preliminary inquiry conducted by Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur has revealed loss of Ordnance Stores made of brass weighing approximately 989 Kg and worth about Rs. 17.40 lakh.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by Headquarters Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa area.

Production of Agni-2 Missiles

†2715. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started the production of Agni-2 missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.